

Development Plans Manager
South Lakeland District Council
South Lakeland House
Lowther Street
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DQ

30th April 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref: LADP R89 Berry Bank off Allithwaite Road

We have lived at [redacted] now for very nearly twenty five years and feel well qualified to discuss the negative aspects of the proposed development on R89, including the significant road difficulties which exist at the top of 'Risedale Hill'. The amended LADP presented by SLDC has not addressed the serious problems that we experience on a daily basis. SLDC have projected that there is a requirement for another five hundred houses which in turn will mean at least another one thousand cars travelling in and through Grange over Sands. I could argue that the majority will pass our house. The road has been identified as one on which traffic exceeds the speed limits and as a result a Cumbria Speed Camera bay was created and regular hand held speed traps can be seen.

Immediately we moved into the property in 1988, when our children were 4 and 6, we fitted a large gate to ensure their safety. Whenever possible, we reverse into our drive so that when we leave next time, we can inch out due to the lack of vision and speed of cars. If reversing is not an option a second person is required to 'see you out'. Over the years we have suffered verbal abuse and rude gestures from passing traffic when we have pulled over to reverse in, and even at times, when we have pulled out of the drive safely but obvious have slowed them down due to their excessive speed.

I have not gone out of my way to collect documentary evidence but in the last few weeks alone there have been serious traffic build ups. This is exacerbated during the hours when the local civic amenity is open and traffic regularly backs up to the drive some one hundred metres from the amenity entrance.





These photographs were taken from a front room bedroom. There appears to be a total disregard to the fact that a car is parked in the Speed Camera Bay. Cars park on pavements; wagons reverse or edge out onto the road by the brow of a hill. Surely any build in the field is likely to see an increase in such activities in both the short and long term as well as increased parking on pavements when visitors and deliveries to the new estate are aware of the lack parking areas.



Another incident saw a lorry parked on and off the pavement and if you look carefully you can see a jogger having to run on the grass verge as the pavement is blocked. It must be said that I have seen a major increase in the number of runners and cyclists using the roads and pavements. My children are grown up now, but never walked down Risedale Hill when using the push chair and holding the hand of the six year old, as the pavement was not wide enough for safe walking, particularly if we met another push chair coming in the opposite direction. This meant that twice a day we had to use the car to take the children to and from Grange Primary School and a trip to the swings on the promenade was another car journey. The infrastructure could not cope with the traffic then and there has been a significant increase in traffic over recent years. How it will cope if all the proposed build of industrial units and houses goes ahead between Grange and Flookburgh I do not know.

SLDC have given planning permission for further industrial units behind our house with access from the main road. It is the same access point used by the civic amenity recycling wagons. I have to say we were not informed about the planning application even though it directly affected us. Recycling wagons use the road seven days a week and last week there were major road problems which we do see on regular occasions



The photographs show the recycling wagon turning onto the access road. There is already some traffic build up behind the wagon.



The wagon has had to reverse back onto the main road and then allow the traffic behind to overtake.



The traffic has to wait while the bus overtakes another vehicle that is waiting to turn right at the junction. The next series of photographs gives reasons why!





The crane has now left the site but the recycling wagon is unable to enter. Following on is the low loader photographed earlier on the pavement with the jogger being forced off the pavement.





This is not a 'one off' as the firm builds the timber clad caravans on the land behind and each new caravan will need transporting to its new destination. In this instance the crane and low loader turned right towards Flookburgh, in future it may need to turn left to come back down Risedale Hill which will require a full swing across both lanes of traffic. All this, and the proposal is to place another junction into the proposed estate exactly where the recycling wagon is waiting.

Other large caravans, on the back of low loaders, are a regular feature up and down Risedale Hill due to the number of caravan parks beyond Grange. Each has to travel with its own escort vehicle, usually from Lindale, to ensure traffic moving in the opposite direction clears the road to allow access through. This causes chaos on Main Street in Grange and then up Risedale Hill where traffic has to come to a complete standstill due to the bends in the road. What a frightening experience for young parents pushing a baby in a push chair down the hill.

I am also concerned that the amended plan has not taken into account 'coalescence'. R89 is the last 'green space' on Risedale Hill between Grange over Sands and Kents Bank. In fact if the LADP is fully accepted there will be very little 'green space' between Grange and Allithwaite. 'Green Spaces' are an invaluable asset, not only for wildlife, but for the quality of life for those who live in and around green spaces. It was one of the reasons for us buying the house all those years ago and we were particularly pleased when, in 2002, it was removed from the building plan. As a family we do not want to see R89 built upon and create what is to all intents and purposes an

estate with a 'B' Road running through it. This would be out of character when compared with the other houses on Allithwaite Road. We should be preserving our 'green spaces' and using the brownfield sites for any further development.

I am reminded of a science lesson as a child on 'saturated solutions' and also a sponge. Both can only take so much and at that point all are rendered useless. The same will be here. If you take the last 'green space' you will have finally saturated Grange and Kents Bank and therefore they become one and not the two distinct communities which they are at present.

I would strongly request that you ask SLDC to remove R89 from the LADP.

Yours faithfully

Gillian M Webster